

THE COMMONWEALTH.

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THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

The race troubles in Georgia are greatly to be deplored; and from the signs of the times in those things it begins to look like separation of the races, as advocated by Mr. Foard else where in this issue, is about the only sure and safe solution of the problem.

After all the men who make most money for the time are not always the men who leave the largest estate. Bob Ingersoll thought it but a trifle to receive \$100 a night for a single lecture, and yet he died a comparatively poor man for one who was so well known, was so able to make money and who really did make much. His real estate was nothing and his personal estate was worth only ten thousand dollars. His widow says she has not been able to find any will of Col. Ingersoll. He died intestate, and comparatively poor.

Perhaps the most wonderful person on earth is Helen Keller. A clipping from the Boston Transcript, printed in another column, gives account of her wonderful work in passing rigid examinations for entrance into college. Being deaf, dumb and blind, she labors at every imaginable disadvantage, and yet her persistence in study and her achievements in scholarly attainments, put to shame the indolence of thousands and thousands who grope through the world in ignorance notwithstanding they have every opportunity that could be wished.

Georgia and Alabama are trying the experiment of race lines in somewhat emphatic manner. In Georgia G. A. R. men from northern states have built the town of Darien, and allow no colored persons to live within the corporation. There has been no complaint on the part of the negroes that they are excluded, and thus far it has worked well.

Likewise Hobson City, in Alabama, is strictly a negro city. No white person is allowed to live in it. The government is accordingly entirely by negroes. The world will watch these two experiments with considerable interest.

Payid Brenner Henderson, of Iowa, is to be the next Speaker of the House of Representatives. He will have great power in office, next to President McKinley. A paragraph in the Saturday Evening Post says of his power, his work and his salary:

"Apart from his absolute control over legislation, he will enjoy enormous influence and many advantages. He will draw a salary of \$8,000 a year—\$3,000 more than an ordinary Congressman gets—and a large and handsomely furnished office adjoining the chamber of the House will be provided for his exclusive occupancy. At the door, to inspect visitors and keep out cranks, will sit a messenger, an ex-salvor, who has performed the same duty under seven previous Speakers, and this man, paid out of the Treasury, will be his own personal servant. Beneath the office, on the first floor below, is a private dining room, which Mr. Henderson will have all to himself, nobody else, save such guests as he may choose to invite, being permitted to enter it at any time. There he will eat his luncheon, brought from the House cafe close by. It may be taken for granted that the meals will be excellent, for the Speaker can deprive the restaurant-keeper of his privilege if he chooses."

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County, ss. FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1896.

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ABOUT AFRICA.

What Its Future Is to Be. MANY CHANGES PREDICTED.

BY G. GROSVENOR DAWE.

Written for The Commonwealth.

A glance over Africa:—At a minor port of the Gold Coast, a small but thoroughly equipped railroad is in existence, solely designed for bringing mahogany logs from the upper Assin river to the coast, instead of permitting them to float to the coast as heretofore. This fact is cited as a type of the influences that will re-make Africa in the next twenty-five years. Railroads and electric lines, designed for purposes of pure commercialism, will inevitably open the way for all that is modern and energizing in the colonizing nations of the world. The knell is sounding for the Dark Continent, and in its stead will appear a continent whose readiness and capacity for development are almost limitless.

Twenty-five years ago the map of Africa was mainly guess work. Large spaces were set down as desert that have since proved to be productive, and the boundaries of the different interior territories were curvy in suspicious beauty and regularly. The Nile, notwithstanding Speke's efforts, was still regarded as a mystery. The traveler who chose to let his imagination run riot regarding things he had seen, either asleep or awake, could do so with impunity; beyond which point the yellow journals have scarcely progressed whenever they refer to Africa, even now. The bravery and devotion of Livingston were then a new story and Henry M. Stanley had just started for the expedition during whose course he partially surveyed Lake Victoria Nyanza and which ended in his re-appearance via the Congo, to pen his great story of "Across the Dark Continent." Of course partial exploration had preceded all this in many directions. In 1855, Dr. Barth crossed the Great Desert and added to our knowledge of the Niger, only however to leave the impression that this vast river of the west coast was a feeder of the Nile. On this same river also, Mungo Park in 1796 experienced a number of dubious adventures and explored the river for 160 miles from its mouth. This same region also and much other of the African coast, was known and traded with by the Phoenicians of old, whose beads are even now dug up occasionally by the inhabitants of the Guinea coast and used as ornaments by native royalty. In the South as early as 1652 the Dutch had possession of the Cape of Good Hope, having themselves ousted the Portuguese and themselves being ousted by the British. Yet after all is said regarding efforts made, territory subdued, and knowledge gained of Africa prior to the middle of the present century, it may be summed up safely as trifling and ineffective.

The present day map of Africa is an altogether different thing. The regions to the north and their control, remain practically unchanged except, of course, Egypt. That is English in all the elements that make for progress and quiet development, unthreatened by southern foes. But South, East and West the map has been re-made. Based upon Stanley's explorations that vast Congo Free State—that pet plan of the King of the Belgians—now stretches from the Atlantic ocean to the great equatorial lakes. On the south northward Star of Empire has taken its way till even Transvaal, once thought of by its founders as safe from all disturbance and surpassing has already been left behind and Rhodesia stretches out the hand of its rule toward the Zambesi and onward again to the equatorial lakes. On the east the territory has all been amicably divided among the great European nations, though not yet settled. Now that the partition has been effected, the international race for commercial development and political supremacy has definitely started. If the British are true to their genius and alive to their opportunities, there can be but little doubt as to the victor. Militarism in the north under General Kitchener and commercialism in the south under Cecil Rhodes, have already given the British a control through the centre of the continent, from the Mediterranean to the Antarctic ocean with the exception of 700 miles belonging to German East Africa. The sale of Italy's port of Eritrea on the Red Sea together with the region called British East Africa, almost surround Abyssinia

with British influence. At Delagoa Bay, still owned by Portugal, the British influence is supreme and thus largely out of the Transvaal from ocean communication. Then from the mouth of the Niger to Cape Verde, British influence is almost uninterrupted.

It is not really difficult to glance ahead and say what is to be; for given human nature as it is, human enterprise as it has shown itself, and racial differences as the exist, one can give even more than a shrewd guess regarding the future. Twenty-five years will see as vast changes in Africa as seventy-five years have seen in the United States; for the powers of the railroad, of electricity, and of modern machinery will be brought to bear upon the African problem immediately, while American effort went forward by the slow stages of the canal, the praerie schooner, the flat-boat, forward to the railroad, only now reaching electric power. From all sides the attack upon the undeveloped continent will go forward. In each case the commercial impulse will unconsciously work out for the land the broader purposes of destiny, just as the individual exertions of all our own workers have, without direct intention, set forward our country in one hundred years until its influence is world-wide in every sense.

In less than ten years, and possibly in less than five, telegrams from Cape Town can be sent via Cairo. In fifteen years, possibly even ten, men can take train in the North of Africa and ride to its southernmost point. In twenty-five years the Transvaal will exist no more as a Republic. It will have been swallowed up by the supremacy of the British interests around it and in it. Delagoa Bay will no longer be Portuguese; in fact, it is doubtful if Portugal will then retain a single one of her possessions on African soil. She will have sold them out right or have been embroiled in the disputes of her more powerful neighbors and thus have lost her portuary altogether. The Congo Free State will be less Belgian and more English. The Coast settlements of the Gulf of Guinea will have spread back into the Soudan and the different little principalities been brought under civilizing influences. The Mohammedan territories on the north coast will still retain their form but will have lost much of their vigor, since the only hope of Mohammedanism is the existence of just that sort of fanaticism to which Lord Kitchener has administered such a crushing blow.

American capital and American effort will have aided in the work. The supremacy of the English-speaker will not alarm us nor raise protests, for while all his doing are not ideal, yet we know no race that is better. We know, furthermore, and have learned much in that direction in two years, that as the world moves on its needs will demand that the leadership of the world shall rest upon character, upon enterprise, upon ability.

THE AMERICAN NEGRO.

THE RACES CANNOT LIVE TOGETHER. What Shall be Done With Him?

Progressive Farmer.

In His wisdom God has seen proper to divide the human family, since the creation, into different races, colors and many languages, arising from sins committed by man in different ages and countries, the history of which is now very imperfectly known. When this continent was discovered 400 years ago human servitude had then been in existence in some shape in every known country in the world; and the most barbarous and cruel forms of slavery practiced by many educated races of the human family. The Western Hemisphere was then the home of the Aborigines or Indian tribes, who made slaves of their wives; and the numerous tribes of Africans did the same, and also of both sexes of their race captured in their tribal wars. The Indians being savage, war-like, and not an agricultural population, were not fit subjects for the slave trade; but the African being more docile, submissive and already accustomed to the evils of the slave trade, very naturally became easy victims of avaricious and debased slave traders of their own and other countries. Consequently great numbers, first from the valley of the Niger river, (the waters of that river being black, and the meaning of the word niger being black, and the people very black, they were called negroes by the Spanish traders, hence the name) then from other sections, were bought and stolen and transferred to the most cruel manner to the New World for the money that was in the business. Spain, England and Portugal claimed territory, and forming colonies on this continent soon supplied them with slave labor from Africa. The English colonies or our forefathers protested against the traffic, but the mother country forced it upon her subjects to create commerce and revenue; and later, citizens of other nations, and the New England States increased the business or slave trade to great proportions and to the injury of the purchasers or white race of this country. Several of the most Northern States seeing the institution or slave labor did not pay, soon sold most of their slaves to their Southern brethren and emancipated the remainder; and the doctrine of emancipation was discussed until about 1825 when the American Colonization Society was formed, chartered, lands bought in Africa, and a Republic established, called Liberia, fashioned after ours, for a home for all freedmen of the United States who would and could go to it; and a law was passed by Congress, for our navy to capture all slave ships on the high seas, confiscate the ships and send their negro slave passengers to Liberia at government expense. Said society was formed and managed by such men as Daniel Webster, Thomas Jefferson, Bushrod Washington, Henry and Cassius M. Clay and others who created such a sentiment in the South as to cause several Southern legislatures to come very near or within a few votes of passing gradual emancipation laws, which many slave holders favored, and would have been productive of great good to both races and continents, and prevented the civil war. But politicians (many of whom had no financial interest in the institution) defeated the humane and philanthropic movement.

The two great political parties, as such, were divided on the issue—the Whigs favoring emancipation and colonization—while the Democrats favored the perpetuation of the institution and extending it South and West into all newly acquired territory. Henry Clay was beaten for the presidency of the United States because he had been the first president of the American Colonization Society and was called an abolitionist; which campaign built up the Free Soil party and fixed or settled forever the vexed question at very great loss of life and property, and the demoralization of both races; and from then till now the two races in the Southland have gradually drifted from each other until a race war is upon us. The writer, having been born a slave owner, was reared on a plantation among the negroes and worked them on farms, plantations, lumber yards, railroads, in mills, etc., for half a century, know the life, character, education and habits of the Southern negroes; and having lived in the city of New Bern, N. C., the first year after the civil war, where there were 40,000 de-

moralized freedmen fed by the government, and both races guarded and protected by General Palmer and 4,000 troops, and knowing of the murders, rapes and robberies committed on the highways in the country, and the loss of the remnant of a large fortune in trying to reclaim his lands, make a crop and cutting lumber with said demoralized labor, saw and was the first man to conclude and publish his views predicting the two races would never live together as they had done prior to and during the war in peace, safety and profitably, but would drift farther and farther from each other. My predictions have come true to the letter, and will never be otherwise for the following reasons: The Anglo-Saxon race has proven itself in some respects superior to all colored races; and God seemed to have ordained their separate and distinct calling and fields of operation, especially as to the white and African races, as the mixing of the blood of the two races produces an enfeebled, delicate and short-lived offspring, and not adapted to the very cold or tropical climates as its respective ancestors are; consequently, the commingling of the blood of the two races was forbidden by the Creator. The history of the world does not give a case where two races so dissimilar ever lived together in peace without compulsion or slavery, or social equality and amalgamation. One must predominate and the other migrate, or extermination is inevitable, and God does not favor either amalgamation or extermination, as these two races seem to have their especial work of evangelizing their own respective races in other countries. Hence the missionary work of the South and the remainder will be disfranchised." Besides, man is his brother's keeper, and the duty of every man is to keep another. The kind feeling that existed between the former slave holders of the South and their old slaves was destroyed by the sudden emancipation, enfranchisement and bad advice given the negroes by incompetent and wicked teachers of both races after the war closed. Seeing this I advocated the gradual transportation of the negroes to Liberia, at government expense, in a pamphlet, and sent copies to the President, and each member of both houses of Congress 23 years ago. And now, if philanthropic individuals and churches wish to help to elevate the negroes, let them do so by sending the best teachers and workers to be had and orphans with them to Liberia to establish manual laboring homes and schools, and money to support them and the native children while being prepared for future usefulness. Had this course been adopted and faithfully executed thousands of murders, rapes and other outrages would have been prevented; hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property saved from the hands of the burglar and torch of the incendiary, and other hundreds of millions saved that have been spent in restraining and punishing offenders, as the South had only a few empty jails and penitentiaries, which have been greatly increased in numbers and all filled to overflowing for a third of a century, and our State courts, officials and their expenses increased a thousand per cent. Besides all this and more—the former friendship that existed between the two races, and so proven by the peacefulness, contentment and faithfulness of the slaves during a most destructive and merciless war of four years' duration, has been gradually giving away to discord and hatred as is now proven by the race riots in every Southern State, and when all the former slaves and their former owners are all dead, which will be very soon, the new issue of both races will have drifted so far from each other as to make peaceful living impossible. Incompatibility will then be written upon all our institutions, occupations, politics and social customs. Already these questions are in the most deplorable condition. The labor of the freed men and women, the latter especially, is given more sparingly and grudgingly, and is unsatisfactory to the whites, more especially in towns and cities, to which all are tending, and political demagogues are riding into offices upon the backs of the negro voters, and the disgust of the white voter is being increased—ad infinitum. Many of our educated and honest citizens argue that all these

evils can be remedied by drawing the social lines more tightly and the disfranchising of the negro voters. Nay, verily. The evil deeds have produced their harvest! The disfranchising and even the emanculation of every unlearned or ignorant negro voter in the South will not stop or prevent rapes and lynchings! Only the gradual and peaceful separation of the races will accomplish what both races are now in need of. These questions have been in our politics for one hundred years, and can only be settled by a judicious separation of the races. The Republican party gave the negro his freedom and his vote, and now ought to finish its philanthropic work while in power, by passing a law and appropriating the money necessary to convey him and his posterity to Liberia, or elsewhere, as fast as they are willing to go. Liberia has become a menace to good society in the South, especially in our towns and cities, and both races will be greatly benefited by the passage of such a law, and the expense thus incurred would be returned to the government by the increased commerce, peace, happiness and usefulness and development of both races and continents. As our colored population would diminish their places would be filled from the old countries by white voters and laborers and be adapted to our mutual wants.

The exodus of the African race is a necessity for the good of both races and continents. Pharaoh may say no, but God will say, go! The sea may not divide for their passage over on foot and dry shod, but it will be bridged for their exodus sooner or later. This may be done as the Indians have been moved from place to place or by a great company of private stockholders, if proper safeguards are thrown around it for the protection of all parties.

J. S. O. F. FOARD, Fredell county, N. C.

A MOTHER TELLS HOW SHE SAVED HER LITTLE DAUGHTER'S LIFE. I am the mother of eight children and have had a great deal of experience with medicines. Last summer my little daughter had the dysentery in its worst form. We thought she would die. I tried everything I could think of, but nothing seemed to do her any good. I saw by an advertisement in our paper that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy was highly recommended and sent and got a bottle at once. It proved to be one of the very best medicines we ever had in the house. It saved my little daughter's life. I am anxious for every mother to know what an excellent medicine it is. Had I known it at first it would have saved me a great deal of anxiety and my little daughter much suffering. Yours truly, Mrs. G. M. BURDICK, Liberty, R. I. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

The best remedy for an injury is forgetfulness.

A Colored Freak.

American (Ga.) Recorder.

Aaron Glover, a negro man living near Americus, would be a star attraction in a museum. The peculiar feature in the make up of this modern Aaron is that the right side of his body, from head to heel, is of a light or mulatto shade, while the left side is black African, pure and simple. A well-defined line divides the two distinct shades. But the strangest feature yet is the fact this negro perspires only on one side of his face and body. While the right side of his face is beaded with perspiration the left side is "bone dry" and has always been so. From his shoulders down this is exactly reversed, the left side perspiring freely while the right ever remains perfectly dry. Glover says it has been this way all his life, and no one can account for it.

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